(6) Distribution of Seed Delinting Plants (Nos.)	
i. Chemical methods	30
ii. Mechanical methods	30
(7) Improvement in market infrastructure	
i. Activating non-functional market yards (Nos.)	15
ii. improvement of existing market yards (Nos.)	30
iii. Setting up of new market yards (Nos.)	6
(8) Modernisation of Ginning & Pressing Factories (Nos.)	150

Setting up Textile Mills in Assam

2894. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills set up in the country particularly in the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the location of those textile mills;

(c) whether Government propose to set up some new textile mills in the State of Assam during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No new textile mill was set up in State of Assam during the last three years.

(c) and (d) The role of the Central Government for the development of the textile industry is that of a facilitator and it does not set up the textile mills on its own.

Revamping of Export Quota Policy

2895. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken to revive the textile industry in view of phasing out of the multi-fibre arrangement; and

(b) the steps taken to revamp the export quota policy in order to face global competition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Government has been continuously taking steps to enhance competitiveness of our textiles and clothing industry. Some of the initiatives taken in this regard are as below :

(1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in interntional trade.

(2) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.

(3) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export-Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.

(4) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings and embellishments.

(5) Government has recently launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernising the existing ginning and pressing factories.

(6) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100%, through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions

(7) To prepare and sensitise our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

(8) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), and its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(b) Export Entitlement (Quota) Policies have been announced for 5 years instead of usual 3 years. These Policies maintain continuity with stability and at the same time encourage competitiveness by encouraging new investments. Some of the other important features of the new policy include, phased utilisation of quota; linking of quota for new investment with

investment made in such new plant and machinery which meet the eligibility criterion of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and making new investment quota entitlements non-transferable.

Handloom Weavers of Maharashtra

2896. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the handloom weavers of Maharashtra have announced to come on the road for their demands; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The handloom weavers in Maharashtra have not given any such notice for their demands to come on the road. However, general problems of handloom weavers in the Country, including Maharashtra State are being taken care of by extending financial assistance under schemes and programmes through the State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up new Spinning Mills in Gujarat

2897. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up some new spinning mills during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of handloom weavers co-operative spinning mills and growers co-operative spinning mills; and

(d) the details of financial assistance for their expansion and modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No sir, the role of the government for the development of the textile industry is that of a facilitator and it does not set up the textile mills on its own.